



IFW
Customer No. 26874
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
Atty. Docket: END5130.0517372

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Swayze, et al. : Paper No:
Serial No. 10/673,930 : Group Art Unit: 3731
Filed: September 29, 2003 : Examiner: Gloria R. Weeks
For: SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT INCORPORATING A FIRING
MECHANISM HAVING A LINKED RACK TRANSMISSION

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action, dated October 1, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.